

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8621

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0695

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ICRC, PARM, DA

SUBJECT: GENEVA CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR

REF: GENEVA 1623, STATE 049534

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTELS, DCM APPROACHED MFA'S PER FERGO MARCH 14 TO URGE DANES TO OPPOSE AMENDMENT EXPANDING SCOPE OF PROTOCOL I. (FERGO, WHO HAS BEEN ATTENDING GENEVA CONFERENCE, IS SOON TO REPLACE MCILLQUHAM SCHMIDT AS DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR JURIDICAL AFFAIRS.) FERGO SAID THAT HE AGREED ENTIRELY THAT PROPOSED CHANGE MADE NO SENSE FROM A LEGAL POINT OF VIEW AND HIS OFFICE HAS RECOMMENDED DANISH OPPOSITION. HE WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THE DECISION WOULD PROBABLY BE MADE BECAUSE OF WHAT HE CALLED POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. AMONG THESE CONSIDERATIONS WAS DANISH DESIRE TO STAND WITH OTHER NORDICS WHENEVER POSSIBLE. HE ADMITTED THAT HE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND WHY NORWAY FAVORED THE PROPOSED CHANGE, COMMENTING THAT EVEN SWEDEN DID NOT SEEM TO BE GOING THAT FAR. IF THE SWEDES COULD BE PERSUADED TO VOTE AGAINST THE AMENDMENT HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN GETTING THE DANES TO DO THE SAME. FERGO ADDED THAT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER FONMIN
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GULDBERG REGARDED THIS AS AN IMPORTANT ENOUGH ISSUE ON

WHICH TO BREAK SCANDINAVIAN SOLIDARITY; THUS AN INDICATION THAT SWEDEN WOULD OPPOSE WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL HERE.

2. AS TO "POLITICAL" CONSIDERATIONS, DCM COUNTERED THAT IT WAS THE DUTY OF ANY GOVERNMENT TO GIVE A LEAD AND NOT MERELY TO FOLLOW THE WHIM OF PUBLIC OPINION, PARTICULARLY IN MATTERS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE LIKE THIS. FERGO AGREED, WHILE NOTING THAT THERE WERE ELEMENTS IN DENMARK SYMPATHETIC TO THE NORWEGIAN POINT OF VIEW. HE PROMISED THAT OUR DEMARCHE WOULD BE CAREFULLY WEIGHED IN THE FINAL DANISH DECISION. DCM SAID THAT WE WOULD MAKE FURTHER APPROACHES IF THEY WOULD BE HELPFUL IN THE SHORT TIME BEFORE THE DECISION. FERGO SAID HE WOULD ADVISE US SHOULD SUCH APPROACHES SEEM NECESSARY. (ACTING POLITICAL DIRECTOR BIERRING IS OUT OF DENMARK.)

3. COMMENT: FERGO, WHO IS CLEARLY PLEASED THAT HE WAS ABLE TO WORK WITH ALDRICH IN A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT OF THE PRG ISSUE, WAS EMBARRASSED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD EVEN CONSIDER ABSTENTION ON THIS ISSUE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO URGE DANISH OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT AND SUGGEST THAT GENEVA KEEP WORKING ON THE DANISH DELEGATION THERE. CROWE

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